

CHAPTER 1 POPULATION

The Population Element provides an inventory and assessment of trends in population growth and in the demographic characteristics of the population. This information will assist the City in determining community service and infrastructure needs, employment opportunities, and housing needed to support the existing and future population. The information gathered in this inventory is assessed to identify significant trends, issues, and opportunities with regard to the local population and its characteristics.

The City can also use the information gathered in this Chapter on population to determine whether the growth trends identified are desirable for the community and whether alternatives for managing or redirecting these trends should be considered. Such an assessment can result in the development of population-specific needs and goals that specify an appropriate rate of growth, and an implementation strategy for managing the community's growth throughout the planning period.

TOTAL POPULATION

The City of Sandy Springs was incorporated December 1, 2005. Prior to that, for statistical purposes, the U.S. Census Bureau referred to Sandy Springs as a "Census Designated Place" (CDP). Table 1.1 shows historic population figures for the Sandy Springs CDP, along with percent change during the past two decades. The population of Sandy Springs increased by 21,366 persons during the 1980s and 17,547 persons during the 1990s.

Table 1.1
Historic Population Trends and
Decennial Percent Change, 1980-2000
Sandy Springs Census Designated Place (CDP)

Sandy Springs CDP	1980	1990	1980-1990 % Change	2000	1990-2000 % Change
Total Population	46,877	68,243	45.6%	85,790	25.7%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census Counts for 1980 and 1990, as reported in the Interim Comprehensive Plan for Sandy Springs. The 2000 figure is a census count reported by U.S. Census Bureau to the City of Sandy Springs in July 2006.

Table 1.2 provides estimates of total population for Fulton County and cities to the north and south of Sandy Springs (Roswell and Atlanta respectively). The annual estimates program did not report population estimates for Sandy Springs, since it was not an incorporated place until December 1, 2005. However, during 2006 the U.S. Census Bureau supplied the city with a year-2000 count, which is shown in Table 1.2, along with a year-2005 estimate supplied by the city's planning consultant.

Table 1.2
July 1 Annual Estimates of Total Population, 2000-2005
Selected Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2000-2005 % Change
Fulton County	816,647	846,388	864,516	887,454	905,802	915,623	12.1%
Sandy Springs	85,790	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	88,693	3.4%
Roswell	80,314	81,263	83,001	83,911	85,077	85,920	7.0%
Atlanta	417,020	433,253	443,492	456,412	465,621	470,688	12.9%

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Table 1: Annual Estimates of the Population for Counties of Georgia: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2005 (CO-EST2005-01-13). Release Date: March 16, 2006. Table 4: Annual Estimates of the Population for Incorporated Places in Georgia, Listed Alphabetically: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2005 (SUB-EST2005-04-13). Release Date: June 21, 2006. City of Sandy Springs data are from Census Bureau 2000 count supplied to City of Sandy Springs in July 2006 and 2005 estimate provided by Jerry Weitz & Associates, Inc.

Note that the year-2005 estimate of population (Table 1.2) is considerably higher than that shown in the Interim Comprehensive Plan for Sandy Springs (86,698 in 2005). Between 2000 and 2005, the population in Sandy Springs increased by an estimated 2,903 residents, a five-year (2000-2005) rate of increase of 3.4 percent. That rate of growth in Sandy Springs for the five years was lower than that of the county and abutting municipalities (Roswell and Atlanta), according to figures from the U.S. Census Bureau and shown in Table 1.2.

Table 1.3 provides estimates and short-term projections of population in the City of Sandy Springs. Population increases in Sandy Springs have slowed considerably, when compared with the increases of the 1980s and 1990s.

Table 1.3
Population Estimates and Short-Term Projections, 2005-2012
City of Sandy Springs

City of Sandy Springs	2005	2006	2007	2010	2011	2012
Total Population	88,693	89,311	89,649	89,987	90,998	91,336

Source: Jerry Weitz & Associates, Inc. September 2006.

Table 1.4 provides long-term population projections of population. Due in large part to a lack of developable land for new development, the pace of population increase will continue to slow down. The long-term projections of Sandy Springs' total population, as provided in Table 1.4 below, are lower than the projections provided in the Interim Comprehensive Plan for Sandy Springs for the year 2025 (95,722 versus 105,861 in the interim plan).

The population projections in this report are lower than previous projections by approximately 8,000 persons. The projections in this report are forecasts based on the policies for land use in place at the time this report was written (i.e., the Interim Comprehensive Plan, adopted June 2006), which assume little remaining vacant residential land and most additions of housing units

(and population) occurring within a redevelopment context and focused primarily in the Roswell Road corridor (see also the vision statement in the Community Assessment Report). The projections of population assume a relatively modest increase of only 3,200 housing units during the planning horizon (to 2030).

Table 1.4
Population Projections, 2015-2030
City of Sandy Springs

City of Sandy Springs	2015	2020	2025	2027	2030
Total Population	92,348	94,035	95,722	96,397	97,409

Source: Jerry Weitz & Associates, Inc. September 2006.

COMPARISON OF POPULATION GROWTH RATES

Table 1.5 provides a comparison of rates of population change for the city, county, and municipalities to the north and south of Sandy Springs (i.e., Atlanta in Fulton County and Roswell). The rates of population change are based on estimates and forecasts provided in the Focus Fulton 2025 plan. Note that there are some differences between population change data as estimated by Fulton County in the Focus Fulton 2025 plan and changes reported by the U.S. Census Bureau as part of its annual estimates program. Specifically, Fulton County's population increased at a rate of 12.1 percent according to the Census Bureau between 2000 and 2005, while the county in its plan estimated a 10.9 percent increase during that five-year period. Atlanta's population between 2000 and 2005 increased by 12.9 percent according to estimates of the U.S. Census Bureau (see Table 1.2) and, according to Fulton County within the Fulton-portion of Atlanta, by 15.7 percent.

Table 1.5
Comparison of Rates of Population Change
Selected Areas for Selected Time Periods, 1980-2025
City, County, and Abutting Municipalities

Area	1980-1990 % Change	1990-2000 % Change	2000-2005 % Change	2005-2025 % Change
Fulton County	10.0%	25.7%	10.9%	35.0%
Sandy Springs	45.6%	25.7%	3.4%	7.9%
City of Atlanta within Fulton Co.	-7.7%	8.1%	15.7%	30.3%
City of Roswell	130.3%	47.6%	4.5%	22.1%

Source: Derived from Table 1-4 of Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Population Element.

HOUSEHOLDS

Total population includes household population and group quarters population. A household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit. The numbers and types of households are important because they reflect the needs for housing units and have implications for the appropriate types of housing to provide in the future. The household population (also called households) lives in occupied housing units.

The distribution of population into household (those living in housing units) and group quarters population (institutional settings like nursing homes, correctional institutions, and the like), as shown in Table 1.6, is important in terms of projecting future populations and also with regard to future community facility needs. Group quarters populations can reside in nursing homes, college dormitories, military barracks, and prison, jail or detention facilities.

Table 1.6
Household and Group Quarters Populations, 2000
Sandy Springs Census Designated Place (CDP)

Type of Population	2000	%
Household Population	85,295	99.4%
Group Quarters Population	486	0.6%
Total Population	85,781	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 2000 (SF1, Tables P1, P26).

In Sandy Springs in 2000, the group quarters population was comprised of “noninstitutionalized population” (415 persons), nursing home residents (37), and other institutions (34 persons) and totaled only 486 persons. Between the years 2006 and 2030, it is assumed that 1,500 persons will be added to Sandy Springs’ group quarters population, and that nursing homes will comprise the vast majority, if not all, of future group quarters populations.

Households can be further classified as “family” households (i.e., related by blood or marriage) and “non-family” households (i.e., unrelated persons). The U.S. Census Bureau defines a family as “a householder and one or more other persons living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.”

In Sandy Springs in 2000, households were split almost exactly equal between “family” and “non-family” households, as shown in Table 1.7.

Table 1.7
Households by Type of Household, 2000
Sandy Springs Census Designated Place (CDP)

Households By Type	2000	%
Family Households	19,702	50.1%
Non-family Households	19,586	49.9%
Total Households	39,288	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 2000 (SF1, P26).

Table 1.8 shows the numbers of households in Sandy Springs in 2000 by the number of persons in the household. In 2000, almost three quarters (72.2 percent) of all households were comprised of only one or two persons. Households with five or more persons comprised less than six percent of the total number of households in Sandy Springs in 2000.

Table 1.8
Households by Number of Persons per Household, 2000
Sandy Springs Census Designated Place (CDP)

Household by Number of Persons	2000	%
1-person household	14,116	35.9%
2-person household	14,254	36.3%
3-person household	4,935	12.6%
4-person household	3,679	9.4%
5-person household	1,480	3.7%
6-person household	434	1.1%
7-or-more person household	390	1.0%
Total households	39,288	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 2000 (SF1, P26).

Short-term and long-term projections of households are provided in Tables 1.9 and 1.10, respectively.

Table 1.9
Household Estimates and Short-Term Projections, 2005-2012
City of Sandy Springs

City of Sandy Springs	2005	2006	2007	2010	2011	2012
Total Households	42,190	42,318	42,434	42,551	42,951	43,007

Source: Jerry Weitz & Associates, Inc. September 2006.

Table 1.10
Household Projections, 2015-2030
City of Sandy Springs

City of Sandy Springs	2015	2020	2025	2027	2030
Total Households	43,458	44,091	44,724	44,977	45,358

Source: Jerry Weitz & Associates, Inc. September 2006.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE

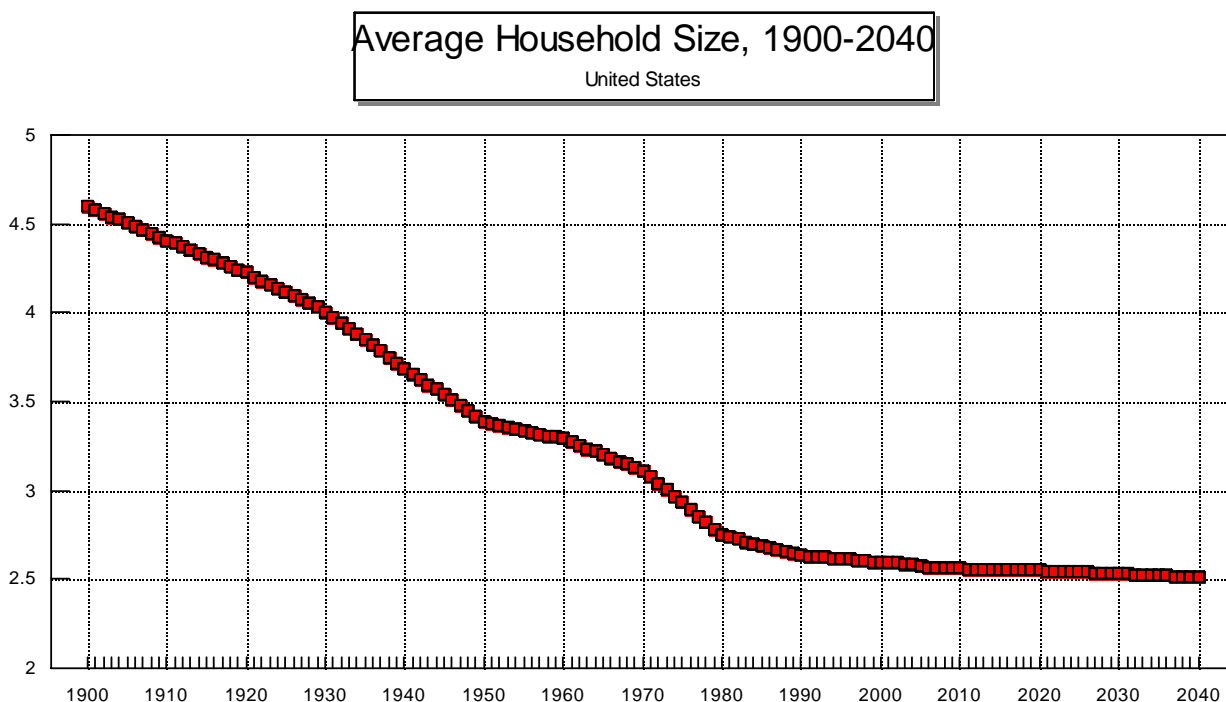
Table 1.11 shows the persons per household in 1990 and 2000 for both family households and total households in the Sandy Springs CDB with comparisons to the State of Georgia. Persons per family is the number of persons in families divided by the total number of families. Persons per household is the number of persons in households divided by the total number of households. The average household size in Sandy Springs in 2000 was substantially lower than that of the state as a whole. Similarly, the average family size in 2000 in the city was well below that of the state.

Table 1.11
Household Size by Type of Household, 2000
Sandy Springs CDP and State of Georgia
(Persons per Household)

Type of Household	Sandy Springs	State of Georgia
Average Household Size	2.17	2.65
Average Family Size	2.87	3.14

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 2000 (SF1, P17, P33).

The graph below illustrates the historic, rapid decline in average household size from 1900 to 1980 in the United States, and a more gradual decrease since 1980. It also shows projections of average household size in the nation through the year 2040 (Sandy Springs Interim Comprehensive Plan, Adopted 2006, see population). Note that the household size is expected to remain relatively steady in future decades, as opposed to following prior trends of a steeper decline. For purposes of projecting population, a constant overall household size of 2.17 persons in Sandy Springs is assumed.



AGE

Age is the single most important dimension of the population. There can be vast differences in the needs of children versus the elderly. Age has a relationship to the labor force – workers include the population ages 16 years and over through retirement age and sometimes beyond. Age has important relationships to housing and can help predict likely first-time homebuyers, renters, owners of second homes, etc. Age can also affect the political situation: for instance, in places where there is a large percentage of seniors, they sometimes vote down bond referendums for schools.

The relationship of the age of population to the needs for community facilities and services is also very important. For instance, a high elderly population often translates into a need for health care and nursing and personal care homes. On the other hand, a city or county with many children signals a need for schools, day care centers, and playgrounds.

Persons 20 to 44 Years Old

This age group is the younger segment of the prime working-age population. This demographic group includes first time home buyers, as well as, households that are upgrading housing for the first or second time. This demographic group also provides the bulk of the labor force. By age 44, the birth rates of women are close to zero and most careers are mature and settled.

Persons 45 to 64 Years Old

This age group is the older segment of the labor force. Some persons in this category will retire early. Persons in this age category typically have the greatest amount of disposable income when compared with other age groups. They are not as likely to change residences, although the more affluent households may look for and purchase second homes. This group is probably less demanding of public facilities and services such as schools and parks.

Persons 65 Years and Over

This age group is commonly referred to as the “elderly” and the “retirement age” population. Most of the people in this age group are no longer in the work force. While some elderly households may have more disposable income than ever before in their lifetimes, many elderly households will have limited incomes because they are no longer earning wages and salaries. Persons who own residences in this age group are likely to eventually seek alternative housing, because they may own large homes that provide more living space than needed, they have little desire to upkeep residential grounds and structures, they experience a need for closer societal relationships with others as family relationships devolve, and because they are more likely than other age groups to need assisted care or medical attention. Because of differences in life expectancy between men and women, a very high proportion of older persons are (and will be) women. The differences in life expectancy also contribute to the number of elderly women living alone, many of whom are likely to have inadequate income.¹

This group can be subdivided into two groups- the age 65 through 84 year olds who are still largely active, self-sufficient and able, and the 85 and over group, who are increasingly frail, increasingly dependent on others for transportation, health care and other services and have high rates of living in assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

Table 1.12 shows the distribution of year-2000 population in Sandy Springs by five-year age cohort. Table 1.13 shows the population by another classification of age groups provided in the Interim Comprehensive Plan.

¹ Howe, Deborah A., Nancy J. Chapman, and Sharon A. Baggett. 1994. *Planning for an Aging Society*. Planning Advisory Service Report Number 451. Chicago: American Planning Association.

Table 1.12
Population by Sex by Age Cohort, 2000
Sandy Springs Census Designated Place (CDP)

Age Group	Males	Females	Total Persons	% Total
0-4	2,346	2,344	4,690	5.5%
5-9	2,091	2,004	4,095	4.8%
10-14	2,032	1,931	3,963	4.6%
15-19	2,177	1,896	4,073	4.7%
20-24	3,637	3,819	7,456	8.7%
25-29	6,345	5,949	12,294	14.3%
30-34	4,791	4,161	8,952	10.4%
35-39	3,584	3,499	7,083	8.2%
40-44	3,035	3,231	6,266	7.3%
45-49	2,701	3,025	5,726	6.7%
50-54	2,735	3,146	5,881	6.9%
55-59	2,124	2,141	4,265	5.0%
60-64	1,269	1,398	2,667	3.1%
65-69	976	1,035	2,011	2.3%
70-74	868	1,178	2,046	2.4%
75-79	717	1,146	1,863	2.2%
80-84	409	841	1,250	1.5%
85+	313	887	1,200	1.4%
TOTAL	42,150	43,631	85,781	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 2000 (SF1, P12).

One often-used statistic is to calculate a “dependency ratio.” A dependency ratio computes the number of dependents in relationship to non-dependents (or working age population, ages 16-65). A ratio of more than one dependent per each non-dependent person can generally be viewed as a concern, in that the community has more dependents than non-dependents, and a disproportionate burden is placed on non-dependents in the community. An approximate dependency ratio can be computed from the data in Table 1.12. In 2000 Sandy Springs had 21,118 persons who can be considered dependents (0-14 and 65+), and 64,663 persons who can be considered non-dependents. Hence, the dependency ratio is approximately 0.32. Stated differently, Sandy Springs’ population in 2000 had three non-dependent persons for every dependent person.

More information on the implications of age is provided by looking at characteristics of various age groups. Age categories can be characterized as preschool children (0 to 4 years old, school age (5 to 17 years old), those starting their own households and careers (18 through 44 years), peak earning years (45 through 64) and seniors (65 and above).

Table 1.13
Population by Stage of Life Age Group, 2000
Sandy Springs Census Designated Place (CDP)

Age Group	Stage of Life	Persons	Percent of Total (%)
0-4	Pre-school	4,691	5.5%
5-17	School Age	10,589	12.3%
18-44	Family Forming	43,617	50.8%
45-64	Peak Earning	18,558	21.6%
65-84	Younger Seniors	7,178	8.4%
85+	Older Senior	1,201	1.4%
Total Population		85,834	100.0%

Source: United States Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, special tabulations using GIS by Planning Area, in Interim Comprehensive Plan, City of Sandy Springs, June 2006.

With regard to future trends, the population age 65 years and over is increasing dramatically as the “Baby Boom” begins to enter this age group. If life expectancy is increased significantly by medical breakthroughs, the senior population could increase even more (Source: Interim Comprehensive Plan, Sandy Springs, adopted June 2006).

Age characteristics in Sandy Springs in the future are likely to be similar to trends in the U.S. and Georgia as a whole. Table 1.14 provides the projected median age and percent distribution by major age group in the U.S. and state for future years.

Table 1.14
Percent Distribution by Age Group and Median Age, 2005-2025
United States and State of Georgia

Age Group	United States 2005	Georgia 2005	United States 2025	Georgia 2025
Under 5 years	6.9%	7.7%	6.7%	7.6%
5 to 13 years	12.2%	12.7%	11.9%	12.9%
14 to 17 years	5.8%	5.9%	5.2%	5.6%
18 to 24 years	9.9%	10.2%	8.9%	10.0%
25 to 44 years	28.2%	30.4%	25.7%	25.9%
45 to 64 years	24.6%	23.4%	23.5%	23.5%
65 years and over	12.4%	9.7%	18.1%	14.5%
Median age (years)	36.2	34.1	38.5	35.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Interim State Population Projections, 2005. Internet Release Date: April 21, 2006.

Georgia’s population is comparatively younger than the nation’s as a whole. In the United States, between 2005 and 2025, the senior population will increase from 12.4 percent to 18.1 percent of the total population. In Georgia during the same time period, the senior population will also increase significantly, from 9.7 percent to 14.5 percent of the total state population. In terms of percentages, Georgia’s working age population will decrease from 2005 to 2025 (though absolute numbers will continue to increase).

HISPANIC ORIGIN AND RACIAL COMPOSITION

Hispanic origin is not a race, and thus it is noted separately in Census statistics. In 2000 in Sandy Springs, ten percent of the population was Hispanic or Latino. See Table 1.15. In 2000 Sandy Springs had the largest concentration of persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin in Fulton County, but at 10 percent, that was still much lower than the 12.55% in the U.S (Source: Interim Comprehensive Plan, Sandy Springs, adopted June 2006).

Table 1.15
Hispanic or Latino Population, 2000
Sandy Springs Census Designated Place (CDP)

Origin	Persons	%
Not Hispanic	77,267	90.0%
Hispanic or Latino	8,514	10.0%
Total Population	85,781	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 2000 (SF1, P4).

With regard to race, the population in Sandy Springs in 2000 was predominantly White (77.5% of the total population). Blacks and African Americans comprised ten percent of the population in the Sandy Springs CDP in 2000. See Table 1.16.

Table 1.16
Racial Composition of the Population, 2000
Sandy Springs Census Designated Place (CDP)

Race	Persons	%
White	66,522	77.5%
Black or African American	10,332	12.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	154	0.2%
Asian	2,820	3.3%
Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	44	0.1%
Other race	4,240	5.0%
Two or more races	1,669	1.9%
Total	85,781	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 2000 (SF1, P3).

Table 1.17 provides comparisons of racial composition of populations around Sandy Springs. These figures show a pronounced difference in terms of racial concentrations. To the south and east of Sandy Springs, in the City of Atlanta and DeKalb County, the populations in 2000 were majority Black or African American in 2000. To the west and north, majority White populations exist – Cobb County's population was 72.3 percent White, Sandy Springs was 77.5 percent White, and the City of Roswell's population was 81.9 percent White in 2000. See Table 1.17.

Table 1.17
Comparison of Racial Composition, 2000
Selected Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	White Alone	Black or African American Alone	Other Races Or More Than One Race	Total
Georgia	65.1%	28.6%	6.3%	100%
Cobb County	72.3%	18.6%	9.1%	100%
DeKalb County	35.9%	53.7%	10.4%	100%
Fulton County	48.2%	44.1%	7.7%	100%
City of Roswell	81.9%	7.8%	10.3%	100%
City of Atlanta	33.4%	60.9%	5.7%	100%
Sandy Springs	77.5%	12.0%	10.5%	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 2000 (SF1, P6).

In Fulton County, the percentage of African American population peaked at 51.45 percent in 1980 and was estimated to be 43.6 percent in 2004. Fulton County's historic high shares of African Americans are anticipated to lessen very gradually over time. As noted in the Focus Fulton 2025 plan, in the very long range, it is expected that Fulton County will approach the national rate currently about 13%. For the 2025 period, a figure of about 42 percent for Fulton County is more reasonable (Source: Sandy Springs Interim Comprehensive Plan, Adopted June 2006). In future years, the racial composition in Sandy Springs is unlikely to change dramatically.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Knowing the educational levels of the population helps to determine the types of economic development strategies (job recruitment) needed. The Atlanta region and the City of Sandy Springs are competing in the marketplace of the world. Fulton County's high schools located in the City of Sandy Springs are tasked to reduce and hopefully eliminate dropouts, teach language skills to those with limited English language proficiency, and hold themselves accountable to meeting and exceeding reasonable thresholds on national tests.

In making location decisions, many households consider the quality of each neighborhood's schools. Prospective employers also tend to locate in areas where employees have the skills and education matching their requirements. Therefore, the best school districts tend to attract and retain new residents or employers. Table 1.18 shows percentages of persons by educational attainment category for Sandy Springs in 2000. These statistics represent very high education levels of Sandy Springs' population as of 2000. Less than one-quarter of the population in 2000 had just a high school education or less.

Table 1.18
Educational Attainment, 2000
Persons 25 Years and Over
Sandy Springs Census Designated Place (CDP)

Educational Attainment	%
Less than 9th Grade	2.58%
9th to 12th Grade (no diploma)	3.15%
High School graduate (or GED)	10.95%
Some College, no degree	16.56%
Associate Degree	5.99%
Bachelor's Degree	39.59%
Graduate or Professional Degree	21.17%
High School Graduate or higher	94.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher	60.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 2000 (SF3, P37). From Sandy Springs Interim Comprehensive Plan, adopted June 2006.

During the 2002-2003 school year, Fulton County Public Schools had a dropout rate of 3.8 percent compared with 5.5 percent for the state. Fulton County, the State and the City are working hard to lower the dropout rates. The rates are highest among students who indicate Native American race/ethnicity and lowest among Asians according to the 2002-2003 State of Georgia K-12 Annual Report Card on K-12 Public Schools. Hispanics have high dropout rates and the number of Hispanic students in the schools is rapidly increasing (Source: Interim Comprehensive Plan, Sandy Springs, adopted June 2006).

INCOME

Per Capita Income

Table 1.19 provides a comparison of per capita income in 1999 for the City, County, State, and Nation. Fulton County's per capita income is much higher than the state's, and Sandy Springs' per capita income is more than 50 percent higher than that of Fulton County.

Table 1.19
Comparison of Per Capita Income, 1999
City, County, State, and Nation

Jurisdiction	Per Capita Income (\$)
Sandy Springs CDP	\$45,494
Fulton County	\$30,003
State of Georgia	\$21,154
United States	\$21,587

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 2000 (SF3, P82) and The 2002 Georgia County Guide (21st Ed.). University of Georgia.

Median Household Income

Household income is further classified as “family” income and “non-family” income. The median household income takes into account both family and non-family incomes. A median rather than “mean” is used as the reported average, since median numbers are not skewed by a few very large household incomes. See Table 1.20 for comparisons of the city, county and state in 1999. For all types of household income, Sandy Springs’ households had much higher incomes than households in Fulton County and the state as a whole in 1999.

Table 1.20
Comparison of Median Household Income in 1999
City, County and State

Income	City of Sandy Springs	Fulton County	State of Georgia
Median Family	\$85,146	\$58,143	\$49,280
Non-family Household	\$44,843	\$34,750	\$26,509
Median Household	\$60,428	\$47,321	\$42,433

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 2000 (SF3, P53, P77, P80).

Income Distribution

For information on the distribution of income among households, see Chapter 3 of this technical appendix, which investigates various characteristics of population and housing by Area Median Income (AMI) categories.

Poverty Status by Age Group

Table 1.21 provides the age distribution of persons with income in 1999 below poverty level. Persons in the Under 5 years (infants), 6 to 11 years, and 12 to 17 years are legally too young to care for themselves. Persons over 65 (retirement age and often not working), are mostly without opportunities to earn a wage or salary. The 18-64 age group (see Table 1.21) is the working age population.

Approximately 6.4 percent of the total population in Sandy Springs in 2000 met the threshold of poverty status. More than two-thirds of them were working age population. This does not imply, however, that all persons in this age group can work their way out of poverty, since some of them may suffer from disabilities, homelessness, medical conditions, etc., as contrasted with persons of able body and mind.

Table 1.21
Persons Below Poverty Level by Age Group In 1999
Sandy Springs Census Designated Place (CDP)

Age Group	Sandy Springs CDP	
	Persons	%
Under 5 years	317	5.7%
5 years	60	1.0%
6 to 11 years	308	5.6%
12 to 17 years	351	6.4%
18 to 64 years	3,915	70.9%
65 to 74 years	148	2.7%
75 years and over	426	7.7%
Total persons with income in 1999 below poverty level	5,525	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 2000 (SF3, Table P87).

With regard to future trends, the incomes in Sandy Springs are likely to remain considerably higher than the county or state as a whole, though the gaps between county and state levels and those of Sandy Springs may decrease over time.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

New Group Quarters Population

Although Sandy Springs had a negligible “group quarters” population in 2000, it is likely (especially given an aging population) that nursing homes or personal care homes will be constructed in the City in the future. That possibility, and appropriate locations and policies, should be further considered in drafting the future land use plan.

Potential Diversification of Population

Many localities in metropolitan Atlanta have experienced significant increases in their Latino populations. However, Sandy Springs remains a mostly homogeneous (i.e., White) population. Significant increases in the Hispanic/Latino population may occur, depending on housing availability, in future years, although Sandy Springs may not be as much of a center for construction laborers as some other municipalities in the area. An increase in the Hispanic population could generate the need for bi-lingual services in the police department and for city government more generally. For instance, cities with larger percentages of Hispanics may have at least one police officer that speaks Spanish, and such cities may also publish various documents (like the comprehensive plan) in Spanish.